



Dr. Veronica C. García  
Secretary of Education

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Secretary of Education Challenges School, Community Leaders to Create Bold Plan to Close Achievement Gap

**(Santa Fe, NM)** Secretary of Education Veronica C. García today challenged education and community leaders from around New Mexico to come up with bold and dramatic ideas to improve student performance and close the achievement gap in New Mexico.

“While student academic performance shows positive gains in recent years, the fact remains that a significant achievement gap remains between English language learners and overall student performance in New Mexico,” Secretary García said. “What New Mexico needs is a broad-based team effort to boost student performance in a dramatic way. I have faith that the many passionate education advocates and community leaders gathered at this summit can help create a plan to shake up business as usual and focus on what’s best for children.”

Secretary García spoke Monday morning to about 175 education and community leaders at the first-ever English Language Learner Summit at the University of New Mexico. Participants will develop recommendations and focus on how to develop a state plan to close the achievement gap for English language learners.

“I’m pleased that parent advocates are represented at this historic summit as well, because their support and participation is crucial as we work to develop meaningful changes to education policy,” Secretary García said.

The two-day event is sponsored by the Public Education Department, the New Mexico Office of Education Accountability, and the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations at New Mexico Highlands University. A summary of the recommendations is scheduled to be presented to the Secretary Tuesday afternoon.

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